



Innovative Solutions Relating to COVID-19 and Beyond

Closing date: 31 July 2020

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A subsidiary of the Gauteng Growth and Development Agency

Challenge owner: The Innovation Hub Management Company (TIHMC).

Business opportunity: Product acquisition, proof of concept leading to commercial application, co-development (e.g. incubation), supplier agreement and licensing.

Technology maturity: Proven concepts ready to commercialise, existing solutions that need adaptation. A proven solution already tested on a small- or large-scale.

Delivery timelines:

Solutions to be evaluated on an ongoing basis with feedback. Solution implementation or pilot launch in 1-2 months of selection depending on processes of challenge owner and other stakeholders.

Challenge statement

The Innovation Hub Management Company (TIHMC) is seeking solutions relating to preventing the spreading of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Innovators, entrepreneurs, inventors, scientists, SMMEs, research institutions, universities, large non-competing companies and the public are invited to submit proposals not limited to TIHMC's focus areas, namely Smart Industries, Green Economy and Biosciences.

Background

The global pandemic of COVID-19 was first reported in December 2019 by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Wuhan, China following numerous reported pneumonia-like cases. Several laboratory tests were conducted and the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was confirmed as the causative agent of COVID-19. The COVID-19 virus was initially named as the 2019 novel coronavirus disease.

The virus circulates through droplets in the air spread by coughing or sneezing and enters the body through the mouth, eyes or nose. It can remain viable on surfaces for days and may enter the lungs through inhalation. After gaining entry into the body, the virus spreads to the nasal passage and the mucous membranes in the throat and attaches to the body's cell receptors. This ultimately leads to respiratory complications. It has been reported that those with compromised immune systems are at high risk for fatal complications.

To date, COVID-19 has become a global pandemic and it is continuing to spread across the globe with 1 348 628 positive reported cases and 74 816 deaths reported across the globe. South Africa has reported a total of 1749 positive cases and a total of 13 unfortunate losses of life due to COVID-19.

It is against this background that TIHMC is seeking solutions relating to the dissemination of information, prevention of the further spread of the COVID-19 virus, disinfection of the environment, etc.



Applicants are advised not to focus merely on solutions that may be applied for the prevention of COVID-19 only, but solutions that may also be used on other related diseases. Furthermore, solutions focusing on the post-COVID-19 era are also invited, e.g. remote working solutions for different sectors.

Key Specifications

The solution should have one or more of the following attributes:

- Innovative 3D printed products
- Information sharing tools and platforms
- Medical solutions that may be used to prevent the spread of the virus
- Innovative social distancing techniques
- Delivery of health care supplies
- Solutions that enable remote working to prevent the spread of the virus in offices
- The solution must address the indirect societal effects of COVID-19
- Collection of SASSA grants
- Solutions that aids in the dissemination of information in rural areas or areas without internet access
- Disinfection of the environment
- Reduction of the spread in South African Taxi Ranks
- Solutions that assist with the prevention of the spread of the virus in vulnerable groups, e.g. homeless, informal traders, prisoners, etc.

Solutions not of interest

- Recycling tools for information, e.g. use of WhatsApp for disseminating information
- Solutions that are not addressing the key specifications

Evaluation criteria

- Overall scientific and technical merit of the proposed solution
- Simplicity and ease of operation/ integration with the existing systems
- Potential for proprietary position
- Economic and scalable market potential
- Impact on the environment
- Fitness for human consumption – for applicable products
- Respondent's capabilities and related experience including team members

TO RESPOND TO THIS CHALLENGE, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSE ONLINE

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DISCLAIMER AND NON-CONFIDENTIAL DISCLOSURE

By submitting a response, you represent that the response does not and will not be deemed to contain any confidential information of any kind whatsoever. The Innovation Hub Management Company and its project partners will not be held liable for loss of any intellectual property. You also acknowledge that The Innovation Hub Management Company and its project partners reserve the sole and absolute right and discretion to act upon all, some, or none of the responses received for this Challenge.

**CHALLENGES
SEEKING SOLUTIONS**

